

CONTEXT

- Climatic shocks and livestock and fish disease outbreaks adversely affected agricultural livelihoods and reduced food availability in Malawi in recent months, exacerbating humanitarian conditions among vulnerable populations still recovering from years of natural disasters and poor harvests. In addition, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related COVID-19 mitigation measures contributed to food price increases and income loss, further degrading household purchasing power. These shocks have contributed to significant emergency food, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs among populations across the country, including refugees. Moreover, the increasing frequency and severity of climatic shocks endanger the fragile livelihoods of rural populations in Malawi.
- Localized flooding in Northern Region's Karonga and Rumphi districts caused widespread damage to croplands in 2020, and prolonged periods of below-average rainfall resulted in low food production in parts of Southern Region. In addition, incomes from livestock sales dropped in Southern due to a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak during the year, while an aquatic disease outbreak adversely affected fisheries in Central Region. During Malawi's October 2020-to-March 2021 lean season, when food is scarcest, approximately 2.6 million people—or 14 percent of the population—were in need of emergency food assistance, according to an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. In addition, more than 65,000 children in Malawi will likely require treatment for severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—in 2021, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Approximately 52,000 refugees—primarily from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda—were sheltering in Malawi as of late May, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The majority of refugees in Malawi reside in the heavily congested Dzaleka refugee camp located in Central Region's Dowa District, where most refugees rely on regular assistance to meet basic food needs. Crowded conditions pose significant public health risks to camp residents, including increased risk of transmissible diseases, such as COVID-19.



ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is working with partners to address acute food insecurity and its drivers throughout Malawi. Since 2017, USAID/BHA has supported the UN World Food Program (WFP) with more than \$94 million in funding, enabling the UN agency to provide emergency food assistance to food-insecure populations, support livelihoods in vulnerable communities, and increase resilience to

future food security shocks. With more than \$6.7 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 USAID/BHA funding, WFP is currently supporting nearly 85,000 people in Malawi’s Southern Region with food-for-assets programming, providing cash food assistance while encouraging smallholder farmers to build, maintain, or rehabilitate productive community livelihood assets, including community gardens, fish ponds, and small-scale irrigation systems. In addition, USAID/BHA is currently supporting WFP with \$2 million in FY 2021 funding to provide cash and in-kind food assistance to approximately 42,000 refugees sheltering at Dzaleka. Finally, FY 2021 USAID/BHA support to WFP is providing cash-based food assistance to other vulnerable communities in Malawi, improving emergency logistics coordination, and bolstering humanitarian information collection and analysis.

- USAID/BHA is also partnering with UNICEF to provide ready-to-use therapeutic food to approximately 35,000 children experiencing severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—in nine of the most drought- and flood-affected districts in Malawi. Moreover, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID/BHA is currently supporting UNICEF with \$2.5 million in FY 2021 funding to improve and rehabilitate water supply networks, promote good community hygiene practices, and distribute WASH supplies in COVID-19 hotspots throughout the country.
- In addition to emergency response programming, USAID/BHA is also providing economic recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance to vulnerable populations in Malawi, supporting the country’s National Resilience Strategy by helping at-risk, rural communities prepare for and withstand recurrent shocks. USAID/BHA is currently partnering with international non-governmental organization CARE to implement a five-year, multi-sector program in Southern Region’s Mangochi and Zomba districts, providing a combined total of approximately \$75 million in funding through FY 2024. The program intends to reach an estimated 723,000 people with assistance in diversifying agricultural livelihoods, enhancing private sector productivity, advancing disaster risk management activities, strengthening local civil society, improving nutritional outcomes, increasing access to WASH services, and increasing capacity to anticipate and absorb food security stressors.



Community members conduct a village mapping exercise as part of a USAID/BHA-funded ER4 program, implemented by USAID/BHA partner CARE and designed to help at-risk populations prepare for and withstand recurrent shocks in southern Malawi. Photo Credit: USAID/Lori Du Trieuille

USAID/BHA Funding in Malawi ¹			
	Emergency	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$12,985,067	\$20,200,000	\$33,185,067
FY 2021	\$18,816,509	\$15,269,872	\$34,086,381

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 25, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.